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Grenacher's alcohol carmine gives more durable preparations. Eggs thus stained may be improved by treatment with *methyl green* (2 per cent.), to which has been added a few drops of glycerine. The spindle-fibres of the first and second amphiasters may be most successfully stained with "Modebraun," in very dilute aqueous solution. Preparations are mounted in dilute glycerine (glycerine two parts, distilled water one part).

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—The *Journal* of the Royal Microscopical Society has just completed its first decade, and the last number of its tenth volume contains an editorial "preface" by the editor, Mr. Frank Crisp, paying a deserved tribute to his associate editors and especially to Professors F. Jeffrey Bell and A. W. Bennett, who for these ten years have prepared those abstracts of the biological literature of the world which have made the Journal indispensable to every naturalist who wishes to keep up with other subjects outside his specialty.

—George W. Tryon, Jr., the Conchologist, died in Philadelphia February 6th, aged fifty years. Although not a Friend, his education was gained at Friends' school, and at an early age he engaged in business with his father and brother. The lack of collegiate education he amply made up in later life by private study. His early years were devoted assiduously to his business and to his studies, and his attention having been concentrated on natural history, and especially on the study of shells, he withdrew in 1867 from business in order to devote himself solely to his favorite pursuit. A man of untiring energy and perseverance, he soon became eminent in this domain of science. His first paper was published in the proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences for 1861, under the title "On the Mollusca of Harper's Ferry, Virginia." In 1865 he established the "American Journal of Conchology," of which seven annual volumes were issued. To this, and to the proceedings of the Academy he contributed numerous papers, numbering at the end of 1873 no less than sixty-four contributions to this favorite science, all showing characteristic accuracy of detail and patient research. In addition to these papers he also issued a Bibliography of American Writers on Conchology in 1861; a Monograph of the Fresh Water Univalve Mollusca of the United States, in continuation of Haldeman's work on the same subject; a Synonymy of the Species of Strepomatidæ in 1865; a Monograph of the Terrestrial Mollusca inhabiting the United States, 1866; an American Marine Conchology, 1873; the third volume of the Land and Fresh Water Shells of the United States, published by the Smithsonian Institution, and a Structural and

Systematic Conchology, in two volumes, issued in 1883. The latter is a magnificent work, profusely illustrated, but was only preliminary to the crowning work of his life, which, unhappily, he has been unable to finish. This was his Manual of Conchology, Structural and Systematic, of which the first volume appeared in 1879, and of which nine volumes of the first series, on marine shells, and three of the second, on land shells, have been issued. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the most extensive systematic work on any branch of natural science which has yet appeared in the United States. The collection of shells of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences was largely his gift to the institution, and it was one of the largest in the world. The library of this institution is also one of the most complete in the world on this subject, chiefly through Mr. Tryon's exertions. Mr. Tryon was also well known in musical circles. He edited for Lee & Sheppard a pamphlet series of operas, which is very popular, and essayed on several occasions original music work, including an opera.

—Asa Gray.—Born in Sauquoit, Oneida county, N. Y., November 18, 1810. Died in Cambridge, Mass., January 30, 1888.

When a great man dies, it is fitting that his survivors should recount his deeds, and learn the lessons which his life and labors teach. Born in the poverty and obscurity of a backwoods village, far from any of the great centres of learning, there was nothing of promise in the future for the little tanner boy of the Mohawk Valley. When he urged the unwilling horse on his tiresome round, and wearily labored at his monotonous task of feeding the bark-mill, who could have foretold his after greatness? What prophet could have seen in the village school-boy, so far removed from all incentives to the study of science, the future leader of one of the great branches of science in America?

Denied the advantages of a collegiate education, he completed, at the age of twenty, the study of medicine in the Fairfield College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District of New York, and doubtless the scientific studies of the course had much to do with making him what in his after life he always was, emphatically a scientific man. His botanical work began during his study of medicine, and by the time of his graduation he had already done something in the way of collecting and identifying the plants of his locality.

The great event of the young botanist's life was his meeting, when twenty-one years of age, with Dr. John Torrey, then teaching in New York City. Under the inspiration of Torrey, his studies were led into those lines of work in which his life was destined to be spent. In his herbarium and by his help Gray's first botanical contribution (viz.: "North American Gramineæ and

Cyperaceæ") was wrought out. In the introductory note to part I, which bears date of February 1, 1834, acknowledgment is made of the author's obligations to Torrey "for the interest he has taken in his botanical pursuits, for the important aid he has rendered him in the determination of doubtful species, and for the use of his valuable library and herbarium."

In his twenty-ninth year Dr. Gray visited Europe, and made the acquaintance of many of the great botanists of that time,—the elder and the younger Hooker, Bentham, Greville, Robert Brown, Lindley, Mirbel, Decaisne, St. Hilaire, Boissier, Adrien de Jussieu, Endlicher, Von Martius, the De Candolles, Schlechtendal, Kunth, Ehrenberg and many others.

Three years later he was called to the chair in Harvard College, which he filled for thirty-one years, until relieved of the drudgery of teaching in 1873. When sixty years old he was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the meeting held in Troy, and two years later delivered his famous address, "Sequoia and its History," at Dubuque.

Upon the anniversary of his seventy-fifth birthday the botanists of the country united in a testimonial of respect and veneration to the one on all hands acknowledged to be their leader. Last year, on his revisiting England and Scotland, the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh, honored themselves as well as him by conferring upon him their highest degrees.

The activity of his mind throughout a long life may be indicated by the following list of the more important of his publications, with the age at which they were issued:

At 24.—North American Gramineæ and Cyperaceæ.

At 26.—Elements of Botany.

At 28.—A Flora of North America (in conjunction with Dr. Torrey).

At 32.—The Botanical Text-Book.

At 35.—The Botanical Text-Book. Second Edition.

At 36.—Chloris Boreali-Americana. Decade I.

At 38.—A Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States.

At 38.—The Genera of the Plants of the United States, illustrated by figures and analyses from nature.

At 40.—Plantæ Wrightianæ Texano-Neo-Mexicanæ. Part I.

At 40.—The Botanical Text-Book. Third Edition.

At 42.—Plantæ Wrightianæ Texano-Neo-Mexicanæ. Part II.

At 44.—Botany of the United States Exploring Expedition.

At 46.—Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States. Second Edition. [Extended so as to include Virginia, Kentucky and all east of the Mississippi.]

At 47.—First Lessons in Botany and Vegetable Physiology.

At 47.—The Botanical Text-Book. Fifth Edition.

At 48.—How Plants Grow.

At 49.—The Relations of the Japanese Flora to that of North America.

At 57.—Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States. Fifth Edition.

At 58.—Field, Forest and Garden Botany.

At 62.—Sequoia and its History (President's Address, A. A. A. S.).

At 62.—How Plants Behave.

At 66.—The Gamopetalæ of the "Botany of California."

At 66.—Darwiniana.

At 68.—Synoptical Flora of North America. Gamopetalæ after Compositæ.

At 69.—Botanical Text-Book. Sixth Edition.

At 70.—The Vegetation of the Rocky Mountain Region (in conjunction with Joseph D. Hooker).

At 74.—Synoptical Flora of North America. Caprifoliaceæ to Compositæ.

At 77.—The Elements of Botany for beginners and for Schools.
—*Charles E. Bessey.*

—A statement by me in the December *Naturalist*, relative to Mr. Harger's participation in the authorship of the volume on the Dinocerata, it has been claimed was unjust. Injustice to no one was intended, nor was there any personal feeling in the matter. My sole desire was to make it known, as no one else could, that a very large portion of Mr. Harger's scientific labors for the past seventeen years has been quite unknown to the scientific world. This is conceded by those most interested in the matter, and any details as to the precise part of the work that he committed to paper is immaterial. Professor Marsh insists that a portion of the descriptive matter of the Dinocerata was written by himself, and presents evidence which I will admit sustains his assertion. The chapters on the brain and skull I have in my notice of Mr. Harger conceded to him without in any way affecting the general fact. He must and will admit that a considerable part of the work was prepared by Mr. Harger without his name appearing anywhere as its author. I have nothing to say as to whether such a course was right or wrong. Others, with Professor Marsh, may claim that an author has a right to hire and pay for scientific work, without its being any one else's affair. I do say, however, without fear of denial, that much of the valuable scientific work published by Professor Marsh has been due to the conscientious accuracy, sound judgment, and general scientific scholarship of Mr. Harger. *The bibliography* was almost wholly prepared by myself, but was so modified that I should be loth to have its authorship imputed to me.—*S. W. Williston, Yale College, New Haven.*

—The Committee on the Marine Biological Laboratory have issued an appeal for aid in establishing the laboratory, from which we learn that $8,000 of the desired $15,000 have already been secured, and that it is proposed to start work before the full endowment has been secured. It is hoped—first, to secure a location at Woods Holl, Mass., where the fauna and flora are abundant and varied; second, to build a laboratory with two stories—the lower story to have accommodations for teaching at least twenty-five persons, the upper story to have work-places for investigators—to furnish aquaria, microscopes, microtomes, glassware, etc., also a constant supply of water for aquaria; third, to have a convenient landing, boats, collecting apparatus, etc. To meet the running expenses, fees will be charged those who work at the laboratory. The laboratory is to have two principal objects—first, the education of competent teachers of biology; second, the furnishing of suitable facilities for original investigation, such as are afforded students in Europe.

—The Boston Society of Natural History is agitating the establishment of an aquarium and zoological garden.

—Mr. Andrew Garrett, who has done so much to explore the molluscan fauna of the South Sea Islands, died in the Society Islands Nov. 1, 1887.

—George Robert Waterhouse, of the British Museum, died in Putney January 21, 1888. His later years were devoted to geology, but some years ago he published a commencement of a monograph of the Mammalia, a very useful work, which deserved completion.

—Dr. Max Schmidt died in Berlin February 3, 1888, in his fifty-fourth year. He was formerly Director of the Zoological Garden in Frankfurt-on-the-Maine, but in 1884 was called to a similar position in Berlin, as successor to Dr. Bodinus.

—Dr. D. S. Jordan sails in June for Europe. It is his intention to proceed to Greece to study the fish-fauna of the Eastern Mediterranean.

—Professors O. P. Jenkins and B. W. Evermann have just received the collections which they made during last summer at Guaymas, on the Gulf of California. They are especially rich in fishes, some twelve species being new.

—August Friedrich, Count Marschall, the author of the Nomenclator Zoologicus (published in 1873), died in Vienna October 11, 1887.